

In my home state of Delaware, we are fortunate to have ILC Dover, a leader in the aerospace industry and a company that has proven themselves a model for providing aerospace technology in accordance with NASA's new focus: "better, faster, cheaper." ILC Dover has been providing innovative and cost-effective technology since 1947. ILC Dover has helped to provide the technology that put a man on the moon and Pathfinder on Mars, and ILC Dover will continue to help provide technology that will help future space missions in exploring our world.

I am very proud of the research and development conducted by ILC Dover, and I am proud of the contributions ILC Dover has made to the U.S. Space Program. There is a strong commercial interest from committed, innovative companies in the aerospace industry such as ILC Dover in helping to develop TransHab technology. I am encouraged that the Committee has left the door open for TransHab research in development in FY01 and FY02, and I look forward to any future Congressional hearings on the issue.

LEGISLATION TO HONOR FORMER
CONGRESSMAN KIKA DE LA
GARZA

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 1999

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to designate the U.S. border station located in Pharr, Texas, as the "Kika de la Garza United States Border Station." The bill is identical to legislation I introduced in the last Congress. That bill was approved unanimously by the House. Unfortunately, no action was taken on the legislation by the other body. I am proud to reintroduce this bill honoring a great legislator, former Congressman Kika de la Garza.

Kika de la Garza was born in Mercedes, Texas on September 22, 1927. He earned his law degree from St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas in 1952. He served in the Navy from 1945 to 1946, and in the Army from 1950 to 1952. He served in the Texas House of Representatives from 1953 to 1965.

In 1964 he was elected to Congress, where he was sent back to Congress by the people of the 15th Congressional District of Texas for 16 terms. In 1981 Kika became the chairman of the House Agriculture Committee. During his 14-year tenure as chairman, Kika compiled an impressive record of achievement and dedicated service to America's farming community.

Most notably, Kika went out of his way to foster a climate of cooperation, inclusiveness and bi-partisanship on the committee. Under his able leadership, the Agriculture Committee was able to form a consensus on a number of important and intricate agricultural issues.

In the 103rd Congress Kika played a lead role in the enactment of legislation revamping and streamlining the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Kika de la Garza guided through legislation that made many needed and important changes, without eviscerating those USDA

programs that were effective and needed to help America's farmers and protect the public.

The bill, now law, made remarkable changes at USDA. Because of Chairman de la Garza's leadership and sage counsel, the bill represented the right way to "reinvent" government.

Throughout his 32-year career in Congress Kika never lost sight of the folks back home. He fought tirelessly for his constituents. He also proved to be an able and effective advocate for American farmers. In no small measure because of his leadership, American agriculture remains the envy of the world.

The former chairman is also an amateur linguist and a gourmet cook. On many occasions he conversed with foreign dignitaries in their native tongue. On a personal level, Kika is my good friend, and I am so proud to sponsor this legislation.

I urge all my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation.

HONORING NEW YORK CITY PUBLIC
SCHOOL 122 FOR EXCELLENCE
IN EDUCATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 1999

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute a group of remarkable students and educators. While we see many unfortunate examples of failing schools, it is refreshing to share good news about a public school that is succeeding. New York State public schools test all sixth-grade students for reading ability. Among all the schools in the State of New York, the sixth graders at P.S. 122 finished first in this reading test. Moreover, every sixth-grade student at P.S. 122 ranked at the highest level in reading.

P.S. 122's outstanding accomplishment on this test is considered a citywide triumph because the students overcame competition from more affluent suburban schools. The school attributes this success to its emphasis on exposing children to art, music and theater.

With a diverse student body, P.S. 122 is accomplishing an early goal of public education—preparing immigrants and their children with the necessary tools to build a new life in America. At P.S. 122, Hispanic students comprise almost a third of the student body with Asians making up additional 20%, and African Americans 10%. This School also serves numerous children from Italian, Greek, Indian, Native American, and other backgrounds. Forty percent of the students who succeeded so well in this standardized test began school with "limited proficiency in English." Approximately 65% of the student at P.S. 122 meet the criterion for free school lunches.

The educators at P.S. 122 are to be strongly commended for their success. I particularly want to recognize the principle of P.S. 122, Mary Kojas, whose leadership helped inspire the best from the students who took the test. This spirit no doubt inspired, and continues to inspire, her students to strive for excellence. Mary Kojas and the extraordinary teachers of P.S. 122 have provided that New York City

School students can reach the highest levels of achievement when they are properly prepared. The Students of P.S. 122 have also benefited from the support of the School District 30 Superintendent, Dr. Angelo Gimondo and his staff.

The real heroes of this story are the students of P.S. 122. This success demonstrates that hard work has clear and definite rewards. I asks my colleagues to join me in commending all those associated with P.S. 122.

MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED
ACCESS TO CARE ACT

HON. DONNA MC CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 1999

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I along with 38 of my colleagues on the Congressional Black Caucus introduced H.R. 1860, the Medically Underserved Access to Care Act which seeks to address the needs of minorities in the managed care system. As a physician, I have seen the problems that minorities—both patients and healthcare providers—can face within the managed care system. This bill seeks to ameliorate some of these difficulties by proposing some concrete solutions to overcome these problems.

A key provision of H.R. 1860 would require managed care organizations to contract with providers in medically underserved communities who are ethnically representative of the population of those communities. This will help to ensure that these providers have the cultural sensitivity needed to interact with their patients in an understanding manner that will directly cater to their specific medical needs and concerns as minorities.

To make this lofty goal a reality, H.R. 1860 establishes a program of outreach grants to underserved communities that will help patients locate culturally sensitive providers within their managed care plan. The bill also creates a similar outreach grant program for doctors that will be operated through a national private non-profit organization in conjunction with the Department of Health and Human Services. The specific goal of this program will be to assist minority physicians and other health care providers to convert their practices and internal administrative procedures to best access the managed care system for both private insurance plans and Medicaid insurance plans.

Ultimately, this bill seeks to redress the many grievances that minority physicians and patients have expressed regarding the managed care system. Addressing the problems that minorities face within the managed care system will take us one step closer to realizing the goal of Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle to ensure that all Americans have access to quality care delivered in an appropriate manner.

I want to express my thanks to the National Medical Association and its President, Dr. Gary Denis, for their invaluable help in developing the language of this bill and assisting in getting it ready for introduction. I also want to thank my colleagues on the CBC for their support in joining me as cosponsors of this important bill.